

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-10 ARA-06 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 /057 W

----- 075215

R 120912Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7509

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: LABOR UNIFICATION: MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH IN PLCC?

REF: MANILA A-171

SUMMARY: PLCC APPEARS HAVE BROKEN LOG-JAM WHICH HAS BEEN BLOCKING AGREEMENT ON UNIFICATION GROUND RULES AND CONVENING OF FOUNDING CONVENTION. BREAK-THROUGH OCCURRED THIS WEEK WHEN PLCC BOARD ACCEPTED CREDENTIALS OF 18 OF 26 INITIAL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS AND ACCEPTED DRAFT CONSTITUTION. OCA AND MENDOZA CAN NOW TAKE OFF FOR AFL-CIO CONVENTION AND SUBSEQUENT ICFTU CONGRESS IN MEXICO CITY WITH SOME CONFIDENCE THAT UNIFICATION DRIVE MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. IN COURSE TWO CRUCIAL MEETINGS THIS WEEK, PLCC (PHILIPPINE LABOR COORDINATING CENTER) APPEARS TO HAVE BROKEN LOG-JAM WHICH HAS BEEN BLOCKING AGREEMENT ON UNIFICATION GROUND RULES AND CONVENING OF FOUNDING CONVENTION. PLCC BOARD HAS BEEN MEETING WEEKLY SINCE  
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LABOR DELEGATION RETURNED FROM GENEVA ILO CONFERENCE.

ON SEPTEMBER 9, BOARD TOOK MAJOR STEP FORWARD WHEN IT ACCEPTED REPORT OF PLCC CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE WHICH RULED THAT 18 OF 26 INITIAL PLCC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (SEE REFERENCE) HAD MET MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA (AT LEAST 10 CBAS REPRESENTING AT LEAST 10,000 WORKERS). THIS CLEARS WAY FOR FOUNGING CONVENTION.

2. SECOND MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS APPARENT ACCEPTANCE DRAFT CONSTITUTION TO BE PRESENTED TO FOUNGING CONVENTION. IMPASSE HAD DEVELOPED REGARDING SPELLING OUT COMPARATIVE POWER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OFFICE OF PRESIDENT AND OFFICE OF SECRETARY GENERAL TN FUTURE UNIFIED UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION. ROBERTO OCA (PLCC CHAIRMAN) WANTED POWER CONCENTRATED IN PRESIDENCY WHICH HE SLATED OCCUPY, WHILE DEMOCRITO MENDOZA (PLCC VICE CHAIRMAN AND PROPOSED SECRETARY GENERAL) WAS PUSHING FOR DIVISION OF POWER AND RESPONSIBILITIES. REALIZING THIS WAS MATTER WHICH COULD ONLY BE SETTLED BY PRINCIPALS INVOLVED, BOARD AUTHORIZED OCA AND MENDOZA TO WLRK OUT AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD THEN BE AUTOMATICALLY ENDORSED BY BOARD. AS CONSEQUENCE, OCA AND MENDOZA HAMMERED OUT AGREEMENT SEPTEMBER 11 WHICH ACCOMMODATED MOST OF MENDOZA'S VIEWS. PRO FORMA BOARD APPROVAL WILL BE GRANTED NEXT MEETING SEPTEMBER 16.

3. COMMENT: SUDDEN SPURT OF PLCC UNIFICATION ACTIVITY HAS HOPEFULLY BROUGHT TO END PHASE WHICH LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE HUMOROUSLY DESCRIBED TO LABATT AS "DYNAMIC WAITING." IN CONVERSATION WITH LABATT SEPTEMBER 11, MENDOZA CONFIDED HE HAD BEEN ON BRINK OF PULL-OUT FROM FLCC WHEN AGREEMENT FINALLY REACHED. HE SAID PLCC HAD GONE OVER CONSTITUTIONS OF AFL-CIO, DGB, AND MALAYSIAN TUC, AMONG OTHERS, IN COMING UP WITH THEIR DRAFT. PLCC TREASURER BONIFACIO TUPAZ TOLD EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 12 THEY SHOOTING FOR FOUNGING CONVENTION JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 1976.

4. ALTHOUGH WARY OBSERVERS OF PHILIPPINE LABOR SCENE WILL STILL SAY "SHOW ME" WHEN LOCAL TRADE UNIONISTS WAX ELOQUENT ABOUT PROGRESS TOWARD "RESTRUCTURING," ACTIONS CITED ABOVE DO APPEAR BE MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH FOR PLCC. OCA AND MENDOZA CAN NOW TAKE OFF FOR AFL-CIO CONVENTION (STATE 216491  
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AND SUBSEQUENT ICFTU CONGRESS IN MEXICO CITY WITH SOME CONFIDENCE THAT UNIFICATION DRIVE MOVING INTO HIGH GEAR.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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